

## An Important Message from Jennifer Toth, Deputy Director of Transportation

### *Pull Aside, Stay Alive During Monsoon Season*

'Tis the season for extreme weather events across the state. Monsoon season officially began last month and will stick around through mid-September. With it comes the threat of massive dust storms that can hit highways with little warning, reducing visibility and creating hazardous driving conditions.

Will you know what to do?

Remember: [Pull Aside, Stay Alive](#). ADOT has reactivated its popular campaign to increase awareness about dust storms. Visit the campaign website at [pullasidestayalive.org](http://pullasidestayalive.org) to view the public service announcement and a hard-hitting educational video that features footage from the rescue efforts after a fatal, 25-car pileup on Interstate 10. You can also download driving tips in English and Spanish and share them with others. Remember these safety tips:

- Check traffic around you, and safely pull off the roadway, exiting completely if possible.
- Turn off all vehicle lights, including emergency flashers.
- Take your foot off the brake; set your emergency brake.
- Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt buckled, and wait for the dust storm to pass.

Extreme heat, thunderstorms, heavy rain, lightning, hail, high winds and flash flooding are other common weather events to expect for the next couple months. If you're out and about be sure to have extra supplies such as a fully charged cell phone, drinking water and an emergency kit in your vehicle. You'll be glad you packed them if you experience an extended road closure. Also, keep in mind these additional safety tips:

- When in doubt, wait it out! When you encounter heavy rain, high winds or dust, exit and wait in a safe area for the storm to pass.
- Don't risk crossing a flooded wash, even if it doesn't look deep. Water is a powerful force, and even a few inches of running water pose a serious risk.
- Do not drive around "Road Closed" signs. You risk your life and face being cited under Arizona's [Stupid Motorist law](#).
- If traffic lights are out, treat an intersection like a four-way stop.
- Steer clear of downed power lines. If a power line comes into contact with your vehicle while you're in it, stay in the vehicle. Blow the horn to attract attention. Stay calm and wait for trained first responders to arrive. Keep all others away from your vehicle.

- Storm runoff can loosen boulders and rocks on slopes above highways. Stay alert in areas prone to rock falls.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Starr" or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.